



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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JUNE 3, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENDANT INDICTED FOR FIREARMS, MARIJUANA VIOLATIONS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a defendant was indicted by a federal grand jury today for marijuana and firearms violations in Douglas County, Mo.

* **Shaun E. Peterka**, 24, address unknown, was charged in a six-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that on Aug. 18, 2003, **Peterka** was in possession of a New England Firearms 12-gauge shotgun in furtherance of the offense of distributing marijuana in Douglas County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Counts Two through Six allege five separate violations, from June 12 to Aug. 26, 2003, in which **Peterka** allegedly distributed marijuana in Douglas County.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the South Central Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow